



Maryland Cold-Related Illness Surveillance Report

Week of March 7-13, 2023

Report Date March 15, 2023

Background

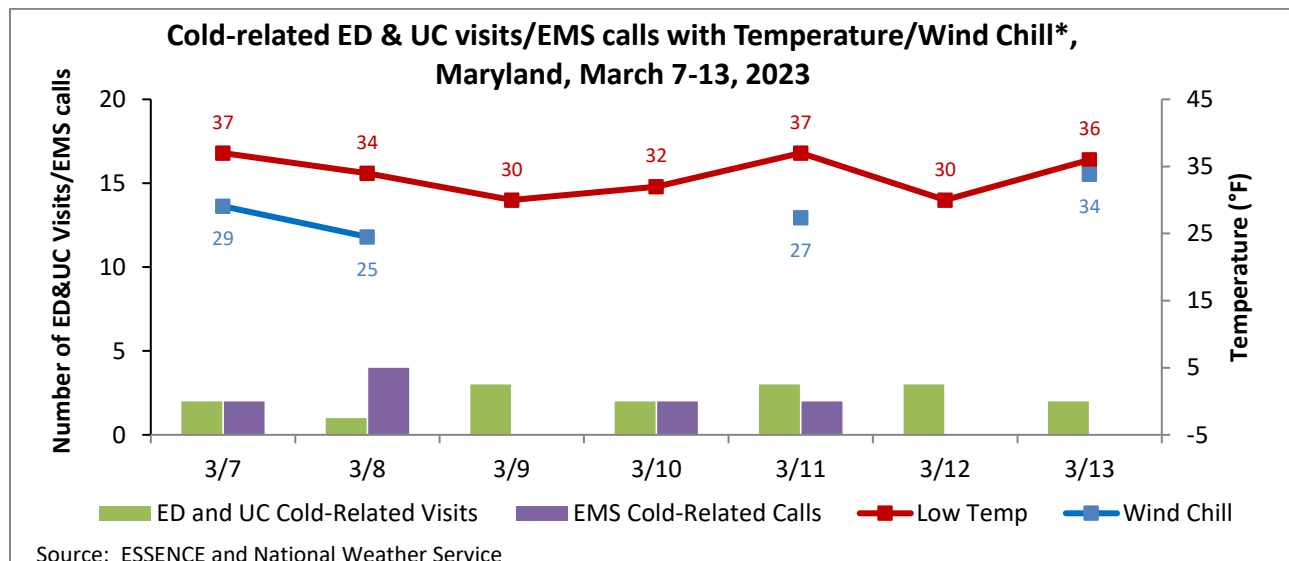
The weekly Cold-Related Illness Surveillance Report is provided from November through March. The report focuses on extreme cold conditions including temperature and wind chill, cold-related illness, carbon monoxide exposure and cold-related deaths in Maryland.

Weather

National Weather Service Alerts

Wind Chill Advisories Declared During the Previous Week: 0

Total Wind Chill Advisories Declared This Winter: 1

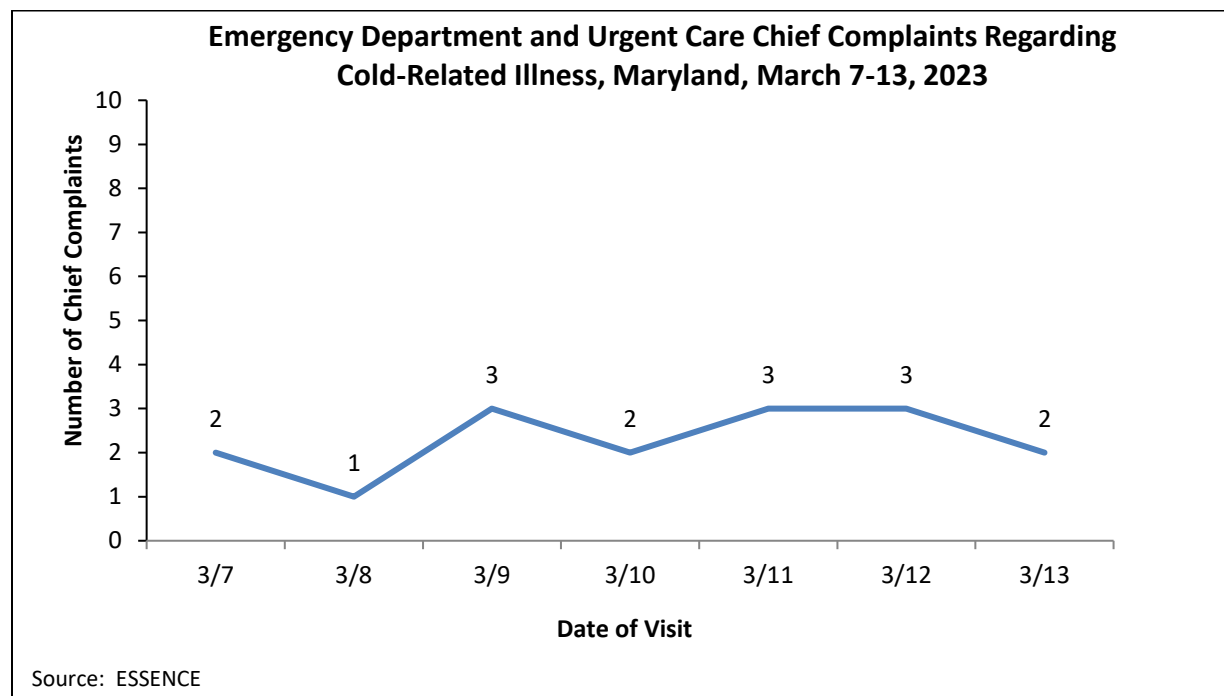


*Wind Chill is only calculated for temperatures below 50°F and wind speeds above 3 mph

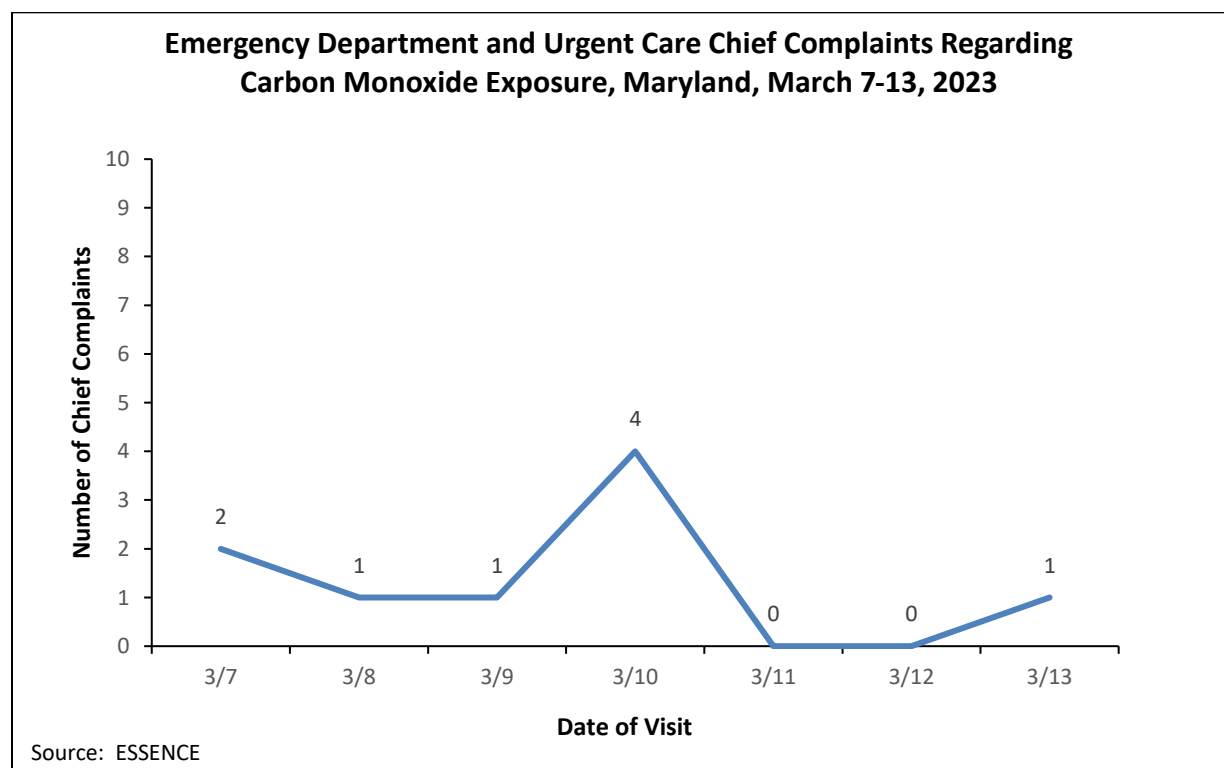
Note on Emergency Department Data: The results from the query used in ESSENCE, an electronic biosurveillance system, to track cold-related illnesses may be an overestimation of the actual burden of illness related to the cold weather. This overestimation is due to the nature of the query, which includes the term hypothermia and frostbite. As of November 2019, visit data from 23 urgent care centers are now included in ESSENCE emergency department visit data.

Note on EMS Data: These data are based on EMS pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has selected hypothermia as a primary or secondary impression of a patient's illness. This impression is solely based on the signs and symptoms seen by the provider, not on any diagnostic tests. Since these numbers do not include all primary or secondary impressions that may be seen with cold exposure, the actual numbers may be low. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

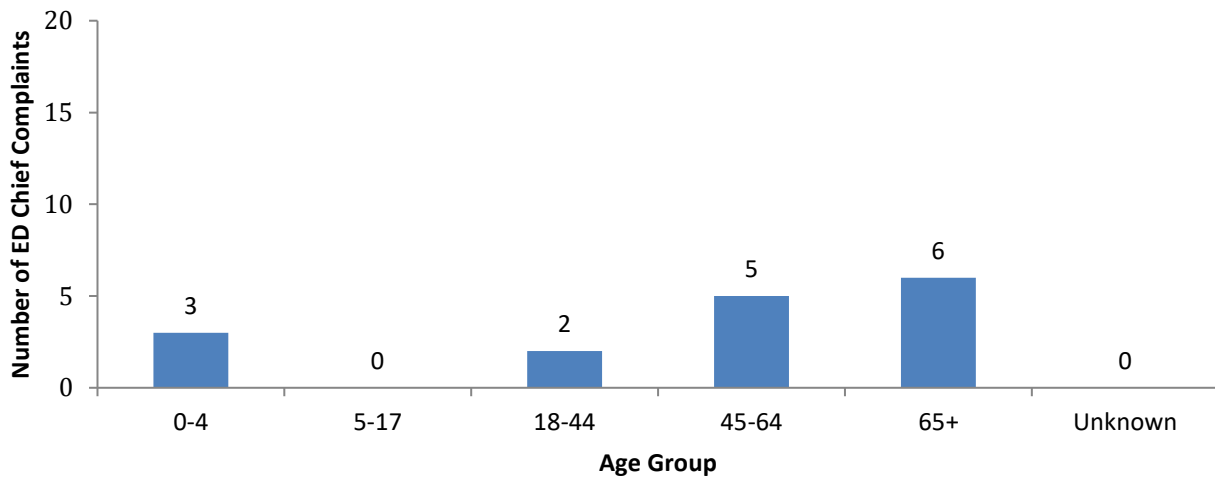
Cold Related Illness



**Note: ESSENCE chief complaint query for cold-related illness contains the following terms: frostbite, frostnip, hypothermia, chilblain, and trench foot*

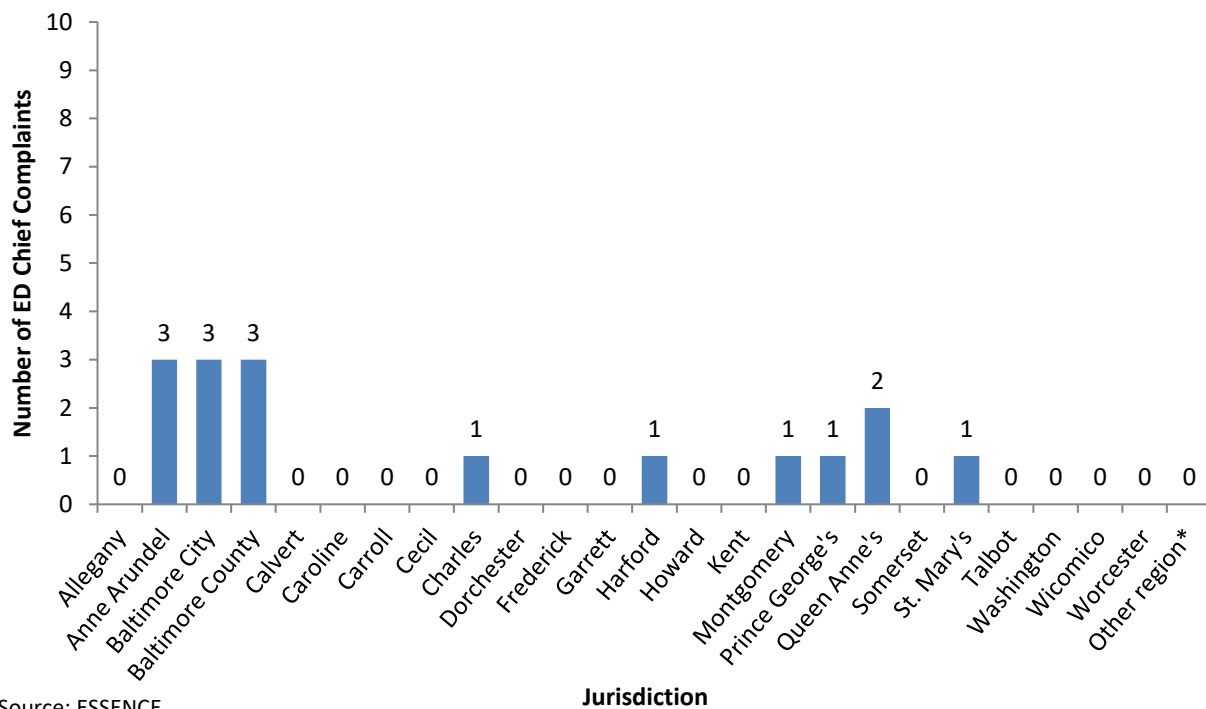


Emergency Department and Urgent Care Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-Related Illnesses by Age Group, Maryland, March 7-13, 2023



Source: ESSENCE

Emergency Department and Urgent Care Cold-Related Illnesses by Jurisdiction, Maryland, March 7-13, 2023



Source: ESSENCE

**Geographical distribution of emergency department chief complaints is based on patients' jurisdictions of residence. The "Other Region" category includes patient records without a ZIP code and patients who reside outside of Maryland.*

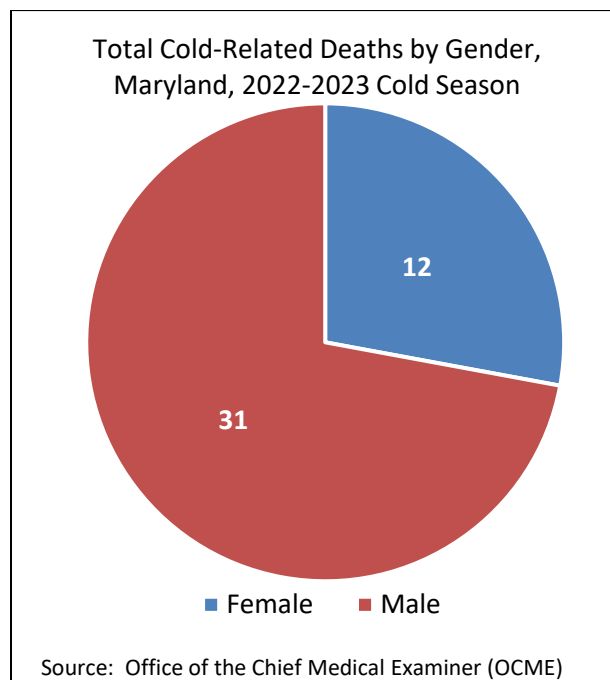
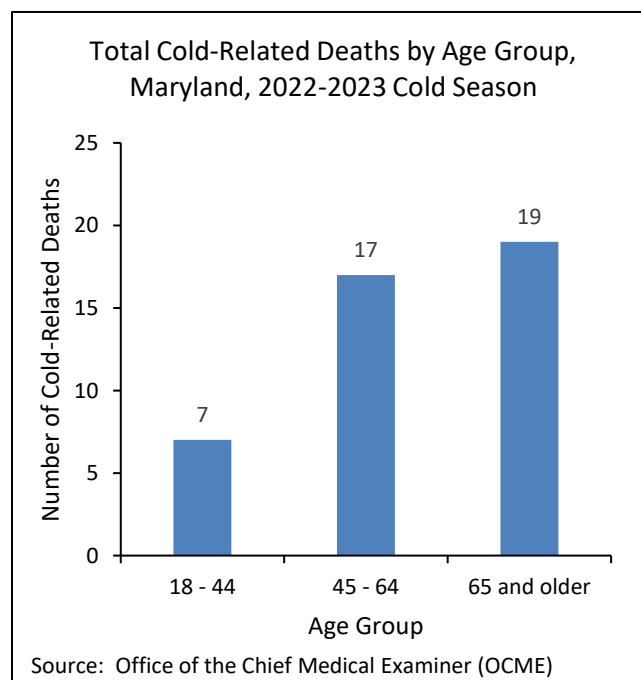
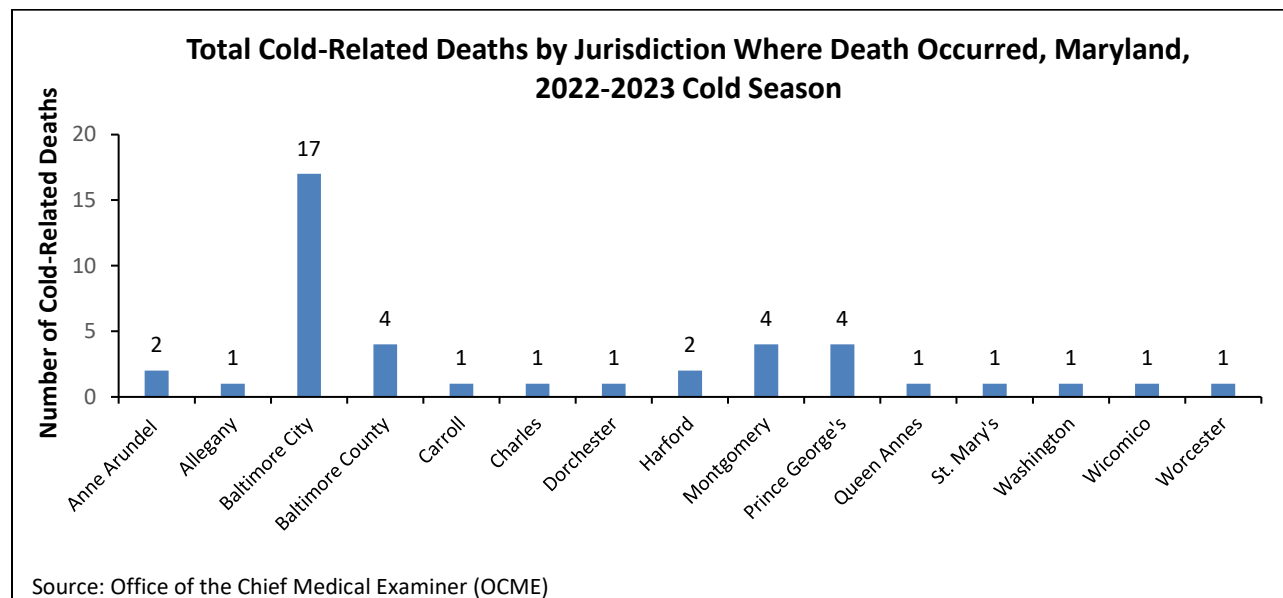
Cold-Related Deaths

Reported Cold-Related Deaths This Week (February 28-March 6, 2023): **1**

Total Reported Cold-Related Deaths This Season (Through March 6, 2023): **43**

Historical Total Reported Cold-Related Deaths

2018-2019 Deaths	2019-2020 Deaths	2020-2021 Deaths	2021-2022 Deaths
54	50	57	52



Wind Chill Alerts from the National Weather Service

Wind Chill Warning: Take Action! NWS issues a wind chill warning when dangerously cold wind chill values are expected or occurring. If you are in an area with a wind chill warning, avoid going outside during the coldest parts of the day. If you do go outside, dress in layers, cover exposed skin, and make sure at least one other person knows your whereabouts. Update them when you arrive safely at your destination.

Wind Chill Watch: Be Prepared: NWS issues a wind chill watch when dangerously cold wind chill values are possible. As with a warning, adjust your plans to avoid being outside during the coldest parts of the day. Make sure your car has at least a half a tank of gas, and update your winter survival kit.

Wind Chill Advisory: Be Aware: NWS issues a wind chill advisory when seasonably cold wind chill values but not extremely cold values are expected or occurring. Be sure you and your loved ones dress appropriately and cover exposed skin when venturing outdoors.

Data Sources

MDH analyzes chief complaints and discharge diagnoses of ED and UC visits to identify and monitor issues of public health concern across Maryland. The chief complaint is a free-text field capturing the patient's primary reason for seeking medical care as interpreted by the ED registration staff. The discharge diagnosis is a coded field that uses standardized values outlined by the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 10th Revision and SNOMED Clinical Terms (CT) code sets.

Case Definitions

ED and UC visits for cold-related illness were identified based on the [Cold-Related Illness Syndrome Query](#) definition published by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) using Chief Complaint and Discharge Diagnosis.

For more information about extreme cold and emergency preparedness, follow the Office of Preparedness and Response on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

For media inquiries, please contact the Office of Communications: [410-767-6490](tel:410-767-6490)

Prepared by:

Office of Preparedness and Response
Maryland Department of Health
7462 Candlewood Rd
Hanover, MD 21076

<http://preparedness.health.maryland.gov>